GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1870
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Research Work in Coal Sector
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research work is being carried out in government institutes to enhance the quality and production of coal in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress achieved including the number of personnel engaged in research/administration/services in these institutes;
(c) whether the amount of investment on research and development in coal sector is adequate;
(d) if so, the amount spent by the Government on these institutes during each of the last three years and the current year; and
(e) whether the Government plans to enhance investment in research and development in the coal sector and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)& (b):The Government of India through its Coal Science & Technology (S&T) scheme and Coal India Limited (CIL) through its Research & Development (R&D) scheme undertake R&D activities for improvement in production, productivity and safety in coal mines, coal beneficiation and utilization, protection of environment and ecology and other related activities. R&D activities are administered through Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC headed by Secretary (Coal) and R&D Board of CIL headed by Chairman, CIL.

Since introduction of research funding of Ministry of Coal [MoC] and Coal India Limited, a large number of research projects have been carried out by various academic and research institutes related to the coal and allied industries with active participation of coal and lignite mining companies. Many of these projects have yielded considerable benefits, resulting in operational improvement, safer working conditions, better resource recovery and protection of the achievement.

At present, there are 34 on-going research projects with total outlay of more than Rs. 200 Cr at various academic and research institutions in association with coal and lignite producing companies.

Under the above R&D scheme, different Government academic/research institutions are involved in the researchwork in coal sector. A fewof the Government academic/research

institutions which have undertaken the research work for the last three years are given below:
1. Anna University, Chennai
2. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi
3. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
4. Central Electro Chemical Research Institute, Karaikudi
5. Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research, Dhanbad
6. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur
7. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
8. Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur
9. Institute of Mineral and Materials Technology, Bhubneshwar
10. Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad
11. National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad
12. National Institute of Technology, Surathkal
13. National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli
14. National Institute of Technology Rourkela
15. National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Kolar
16. The Energy and Resources Institutes, New Delhi
17. North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat
18. Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute, Gujarat

In Research projects, havebeen staff component which generally includes Project Coordinator, Project Leader and a few Senior Research Fellows / Junior Research Fellows / Research Associates are engaged by the concerned implementing agency to facilitate the research work.

(c): Adequate funds are earmarked annually by the Ministry of Coal (MoC) and Coal India Limited (CIL) to carry out research work in coal and lignite sector for the areas mentioned above.

(d): The expenditure on R&D activities for the last three years and current year by CIL and through S&T grant of Ministry of Coal are as follows:-

(Rs. in Cr.)

Year	Expenditure
2012-13	22.75
2013-14	22.73
2014-15	29.68
2015-16 (Till date)	8.60

(e): For enhancing the research work needed to address the complexity of operations of the coal industry and for wider involvement of research institutes including private organizations with adequate infrastructure and expertise in India and abroad, requests are made from time to time, inviting research proposals for undertaking research work beneficial to the coal industry.